

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 8, 11 and 13-33 have been amended. Applicant has amended the currently pending claims in order to expedite prosecution and does not, by this amendment, intend to abandon subject matter of the claims as originally filed or later presented, and reserves the right to pursue such subject matter in a continuing application. Therefore, claims 1-33 are pending, of which claims 13-30 and 32-33 are currently withdrawn from consideration. In view of the following comments, allowance of all the claims pending in the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 13 and 22 have been amended to recite a transfer apparatus that corresponds to the transfer apparatus as recited in claim 1. In other words, claim 1 recites Bsp and claims 13 and 22 recite ABsp per MPEP §806.05(c)I. Similarly, claims 32 and 33 have been amended to recite a method of transferring that corresponds to the method of transferring as recited in claim 31. In other words, claim 31 recites Bsp and claims 32 and 33 recite ABsp per MPEP §806.05(c)I. Therefore, Applicant submits that claims 1 and 31 are generic and/or linking claims and therefore requests rejoinder and allowance of claims 1-33, claims 14-21 and claims 23-30 being dependent on and including all the limitations of a respective allowable claim.

Claims 1, 4-6, 11 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,790,338 to Kanai et al. (“Kanai”). Further, claims 2, 3 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable in view of Kanai further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,591,160 to Hine et al. (“Hine”). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited portions of Kanai and Hine fail to at least disclose or teach a transfer apparatus for transferring an object, comprising, *inter alia*, a measurement device, separate and displaced from said gripper, configured to measure a relative position of said gripper with respect to said receiver in at least one direction, as recited in claim 1.

The cited portions of Kanai merely disclose position recognizing mechanism 9 (column 3, lines 43-48, and FIG. 4) that includes a reflection type photosensor 51 (column 3, lines 49-56, and FIG. 3B) attached to the gripper hand 5 of Kanai. Further, the cited portions

of Hine similarly merely disclose a sensor 50 attached to the end effector 48 of Hine. Therefore, the cited portions of Kanai and Hine do not disclose or teach each and every element of claim 1. For similar reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 31 is patentable. Furthermore, as claims 2-12 depend from claim 1, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of these claims at least by the virtue of their dependence, and for the additional features recited therein.

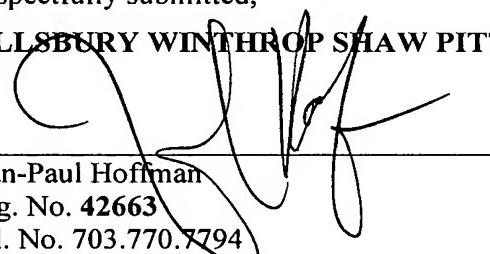
All matters having been addressed and in view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application, and the immediate allowance of all pending claims.

Applicant's representative remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this matter. If any point remains in issue in which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number **03-3975**. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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